

## ABSTRACT

Devices, software, and methods quantify a burstiness quality of the packet loss  
5 in the node of a path. The quantified burstiness becomes a metric for determining the  
Quality of Service (QoS) offered by a node in retransmitting data through a network.  
Network routing and rerouting decisions are made according to the improved QoS.  
The burstiness statistic is determined by counting lengths of episodes of sequentially  
discarded packets at the node. The burstiness statistic is incorporated as a metric with  
10 the other metrics of the QoS of the node.